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Department of Education passes privacy regulations

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B.A. [REDACTED]
Major - [REDACTED]
FERPA [REDACTED]

Male - [REDACTED]
Born: [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED] (cell)

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INFOGRAPHIC BY CAIN MADDEN | The Daily Mississippian

BY MEGAN SMITH
megansmith67@gmail.com

Though privacy and advancement are not often thought of together, the two will soon fall under the same banner of education.

The U.S. Department of Education's recently announced that regulations have passed,

and they will perform a dual function. First, they will safeguard student privacy. The regulations are also meant to give schools the flexibility necessary to share school data that can be helpful government investments in education.

Kerry Melear, associate leadership and counselor education professor, said these

regulations clarified the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which was passed by Congress in 1974 in order to protect student education records.

These regulations will ease the development of statewide longitudinal data system now required by federal law, Melear said.

"These data systems track any number of education prerogatives, such as academic progression, employment attainment or program efficiency on both the K-12 and higher education levels," Melear said.

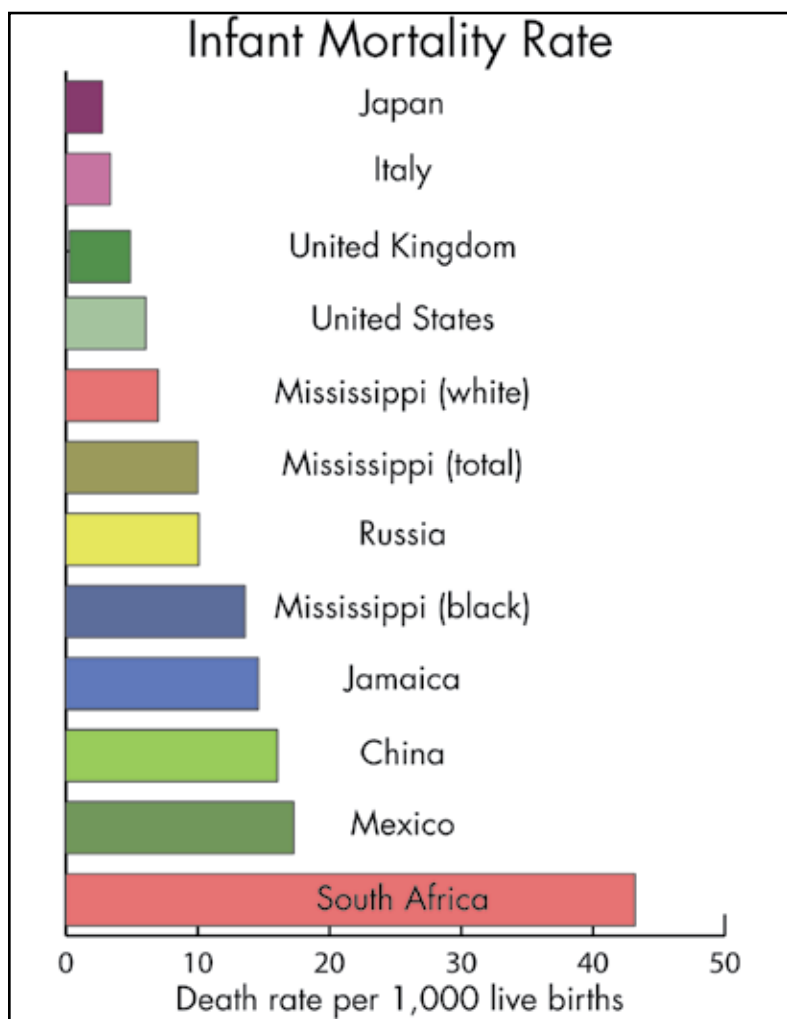
Before the new regulations, states faced a contradiction between the scope of FERPA and state privacy laws regard-

ing what student data could be released, Melear said.

The new regulations further protect student privacy in two main ways, Melear said. They will extend FERPA to cover entities such as student loan lenders or non-profit organizations receiving federal funding, and

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Infant mortality rate in Mississippi high but steady



INFOGRAPHIC BY CAIN MADDEN | The Daily Mississippian
Mississippi data from 2010 US Census,
World data from 2011 CIA World Factbook

BY ELLIE TURNER
eeturne1@olemiss.edu

Mississippi has been recognized as one of the leading states in infant mortality rates, having had no change in mortality rates in the last 10 years, and experts say that consistency is the problem.

"The infant mortality rate in Mississippi is about 50 percent higher than the rest of the country," said Dr. Glen Graves, neonatal and prenatal specialist at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. "There was a whole lot of work done in the '70s and '80s and '90s to reduce the mortality rate, and it was pretty successful. That went about as far as it could go. Now everything (has) kind of leveled off, and in the last 10 to 15 years, there hasn't really been much improvement."

The 2010 Mississippi Infant Mortality Report says that for every 1,000 live births, 10 infant deaths occur. The state's goal for 2020 is to cut this number by four deaths, so that the ratio will be six deaths for

every 1,000 live births. The 2011 U.S. infant mortality rate is 6.06 deaths per every 1,000 live births.

A little over 60 percent of infant deaths happen in the neonatal period, which is the first 28 days of life. Post-neonatal deaths occur between the 28th day and the first year of an infant's life.

Graves said Mississippi's race demographics are the primary reason the state's rate is higher than others. In every state, African-American babies are dying more than Caucasian babies. Mississippi has a greater African-American population, and more African-American babies being born. African-American newborns make up about 44.1 percent of the total births in Mississippi. These facts could explain the higher infant mortality rate in Mississippi.

Of the total infant deaths, 2 percent are premature babies that are the normal weight of a 32-week-old baby. Graves is partnering with interpregnancy plans which focus on that 2 percent. These programs em-

phasize women's health before conception. While many factors can contribute to early births, the trend has proven that in most cases the cause is unhealthy mothers, and Graves said the unhealthy lifestyles are carried through generations.

Juanita Graham, director of program development and effectiveness at the Mississippi Department of Health and registered nurse, said location is not relevant to the high rate in Mississippi.

"There is really no difference in infant mortality across the state of Mississippi," she said. "There are some pockets in different areas of the state where variations in demographic, geographic and socioeconomic factors result in normal variability of the infant mortality rate."

Graham said preventative measures should be taken by mothers before, during and after a baby is born. For starters, the pregnancy should be planned, and women should

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OUT services expand accommodations

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Crown Jewel: Ward talks about his recruitment and Ole Miss commitment

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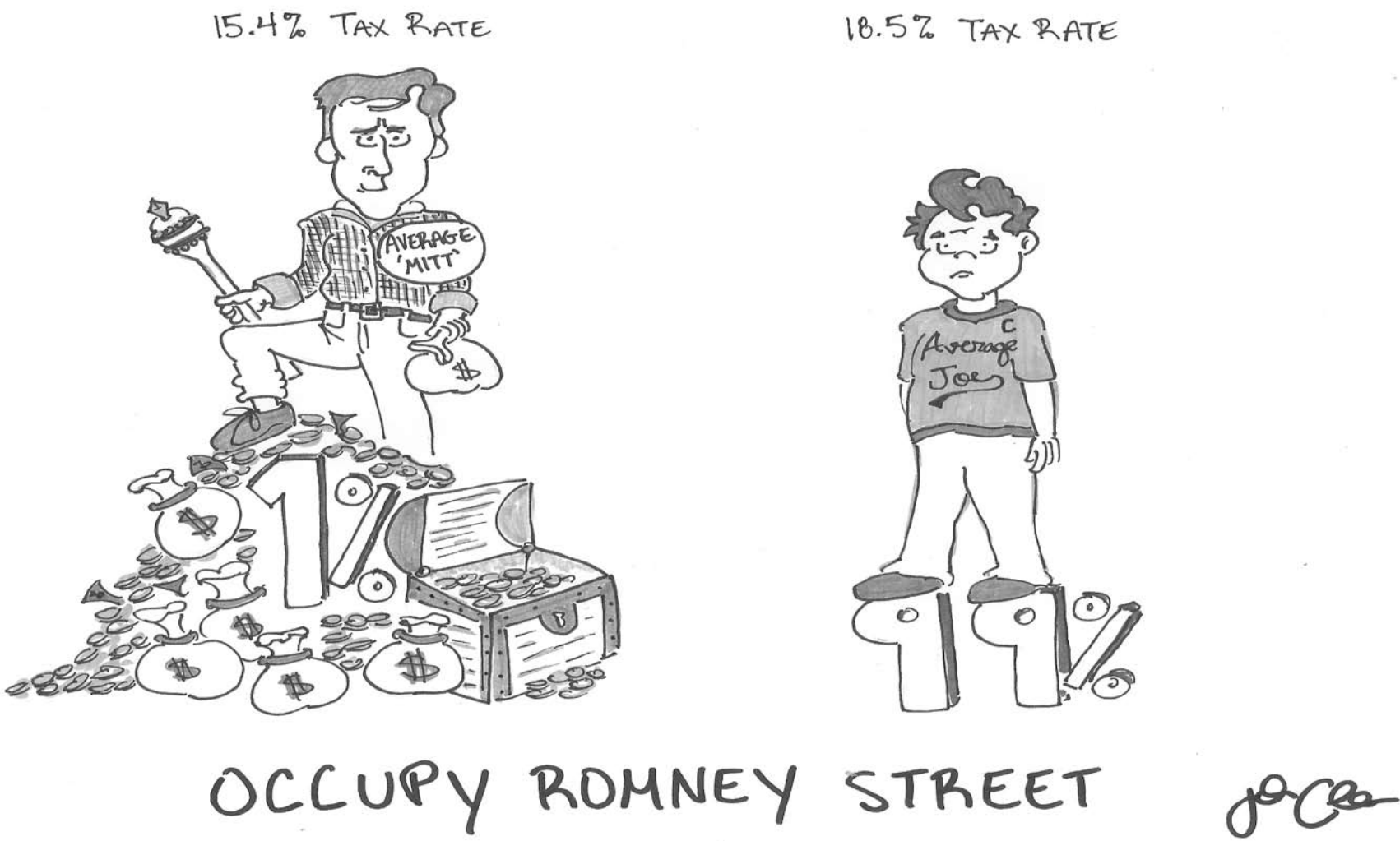


Kendrick continues transition at Ole Miss

P. 12



BY JOSH CLARK
@dm_toons



Get out of your comfort zone...and grow.



BY LEXI THOMAN
alexandria.thoman@gmail.com

It is easy to get comfortable in the “bubbles” of our own little worlds.

For me, that bubble consisted of my hometown of St. Louis and expanded two and a half years ago to include Oxford when I began the first semester of my freshman year. While everything was new and overwhelming at first, I settled in, made friends and found my stride in the cadence of daily life at Ole Miss.

Besides a few short stints in other cities — a month of studying Spanish in Quito, Ecuador, and a summer internship in Washing-

ton, D.C. — I have never really been pushed out of my comfort zone for an extended period of time. Returning to Oxford each semester has become routine, and it is no longer a distant place. It is home.

But for the first time in my three years as an Ole Miss Rebel, I will not be coming home to Oxford this semester or even in the fall. Three weeks ago today, I boarded a plane bound for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with no plans to return until next December, not even one trip home.

To say that moving to Brazil was the hardest thing I have ever done would be the ultimate understatement. I left behind my family, my friends, my boyfriend and absolutely everything I have ever known. While I pride myself on being an independent person, the idea of completely detaching myself from the familiar and

moving 5,000 miles away was a lot easier to think about than to actually do.

The first days here in Rio were by far the hardest. Having studied abroad before (albeit, only for a month), I was no stranger to culture shock. Nevertheless, the constant barrage of novelty — not to mention the language barrier — was overwhelming. I went to bed exhausted at night, only to drag myself out of bed the next morning and do it all over again.

Just as I knew they would, things started to get easier. Breaking out of my St. Louis/Oxford “bubble” was far from effortless, but in the 21 short days that I have been here, I have already learned so much about myself. As cliché as it sounds, drawing myself out of the intricate support network that I have created over the years in the United States has forced me to grow as a person.

To give an example, I have become keenly aware of how I handle stressful situations. Instead of getting flustered and freezing up, I force myself to step back, take a breath, and try again. Life is about trial and error, and whether I am in my Portuguese class, talking with my host mom, or asking for directions on the street, I know that giving up will get me nowhere. Sometimes you have to put yourself out there and make mistakes in order to grow, which is something that I have always hated. I learned just how far a little courtesy, a big smile and an easy-going attitude can get you.

As an international studies major, I have always known that I would study abroad at some point in my collegiate career. But while I might have initially thought that the experience was a Croft graduation requirement so that students gain marketable language skills

and cultural understanding, I am now beginning to understand how it is so much more than that.

Studying abroad, pushing yourself out of your comfort zone and throwing yourself into the unknown forces you to learn about yourself in a way that you could never hope to replicate while safe inside the “bubble” that is Oxford, Miss. While such a huge change was intimidating at first, I know that I will return to Ole Miss a stronger student and person because of it.

While I know that studying abroad is not for everyone, that does not mean that you cannot find something that will give you a similar experience while state-side. Take a chance and push yourself. You will not regret it.

Lexi Thoman is junior international studies and Spanish double-major from St. Louis, Mo.

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The University of Mississippi
S. Gale Denley Student Media Center
201 Bishop Hall
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The Daily Mississippian welcomes all comments. Please send a letter to the editor addressed to The Daily Mississippian, 201 Bishop Hall, University, MS, 38677 or send an e-mail to dmeditor@gmail.com.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Third party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or “name withheld” will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Student submissions must include grade classification and major. All submissions must be turned in at least three days in advance of date of desired publication.



Let's make real change



BY MEGAN MASSEY
memassey1848@gmail.com

Thousands of protesters gathered Monday morning in Washington, D.C., for the annual march against Roe v. Wade. Naturally, the group was challenged by pro-choice activists at the march, and politicians wasted absolutely no time using this protest for campaigning.

These protests always have a hint of childishness about them. A video on the Internet shows the two opposing groups basically having a cheer-off like a bunch of elementary-school children at camp. "Roe v. Wade has got to go, hey, hey, ho, ho," and "Roe v. Wade is here to stay, ho, ho, hey, hey," were the battle cries of the day.

At one point the groups took turns yelling their rhymes back and forth at each another. It looked like a scene from "Bring It On," and that's not a compliment. The entire situation is a bit ludicrous. It's unpopular to say that either side is being petty, but honestly, this topic of abortion has been beaten to death and with little to no results.

And of course, the politicians came out making ridiculous remarks that really carry no weight at all, but for the sake of getting more votes in the fall, they couldn't

pass up the free publicity. House Speaker John Boehner talked about how it "couldn't have been easy" for his mother to have 12 children, but "he's sure glad we're all here," which really is kind of irrelevant to the whole discussion. People don't usually get abortions just because "it's not easy."

Another politician talked about how all conservatives needed to get behind whomever is named the candidate for the Republican Party. Once again, only indirectly related to the actual protest.

Politically, I'm worn out. Both sides are exhausting and often end up taking things too far. Hot-button issues just give people something to yell about and something for politicians to easily please their constituents with so they can go on ignoring much more important things, like how to take care of these kids after they're born. Our education system is terrible. Our public schools are failing. The gap between the extremely rich and the extremely poor is becoming evermore expansive and children are always the collateral damage in such situations. We've let this vicious cycle of poor education infect our nation. We have some of the lowest math and science scores in the developed world, making it extremely difficult for any American student to be globally competitive. But we're going to stand in the streets and yell about something that hasn't changed much despite all the protests and attempted legislation, while these

other issues pass right under our noses?

It's easy to yell and to say that you care about something; the struggle is making actual changes. It does no good to yell about the other side's faults. You won't get cooperation that way. And without cooperation, how on earth can anyone expect to bring about change? We can talk badly about politicians, but they're only doing what they do best: pandering to their constituents. It's time we start

making changes that give people good lives, not just good embryonic and fetal stages.

Megan Massey is a junior religious studies major from Mount Olive. Follow her on Twitter @megan_massey.

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PHILLIP WALLER | The Daily Mississippian
A group of students pass in front of a streetlight by the Phi Mu fountain on Tuesday evening.

Two-strike policy five year anniversary

BY CHARLES HALE ROBINSON
charleshalerobinson@gmail.com

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the University of Mississippi two-strike policy installment for alcohol and drug violations by the Office of the Dean of Students.

Since 2006, when the policy began, 31 students have been suspended from the university, 13 for drug violations and 18 for alcohol violations. Twenty-four of them have become eligible to return.

Of the eligible 24, 15 have returned and five have gone on to graduate from the university, said Scott Wallace, assistant dean of student for judicial affairs. Wallace believes the policy has done well for students.

“When I was tracking these students, and I saw that five had actually come back and graduated, it made me feel like what we’ve done has been beneficial,” he said. “Our philosophy has done what we’ve hoped. We’ve hoped that students would take some time away to seek help and come back and graduate, and several have. I think it’s been pretty good.”

Wallace explained what a student in violation of the two-strike policy can expect at a judicial hearing.

“You may have made a bad decision, maybe spread your wings, or may be caught in a bad situation,” he said. “Whatever it may be, the first time we’re going to call you in here, put you on probation for a time period, which the minimum is the rest of the current semester and two more fall or spring semesters, and then if you have another alcohol or drug violation within that time period, you may have a problem, or where there’s smoke there’s fire, and you may be close to having a problem. So we’re going to ask that you take some time away from the university, seek help and then come back and

make us proud that you’re an Ole Miss student. That’s been our philosophy from day one.”

When considering drugs and alcohol, Wallace believes student behavior has improved since the policy was implemented.

“Looking back, I think there is a change in behavior,” he said. “I don’t know if the numbers necessarily reflect that or not. It’s hard to tell from the numbers. We may have had an increase in numbers one semester, but we also had an increase in students. So percentage wise, based upon the percentage of the student body, I’m not sure how that plays out, but I’m anxious to find out.”

“The two-strike policy is also a minimum sanction policy,” said Melinda Pullen Carlson, associate dean of students. “So if we find the student responsible for an alcohol violation, there are minimum standards that we have to utilize as a sanction. The university, when they went through the process and created this policy, thought there should be a minimum standard that if a student violates it, at minimum, this will happen.”

Students accused of an offense can face a number of different punishments, including at minimum a conduct strike, written essay or community service.

“There are two primary ways that we find out about students and possible policy violations regarding alcohol,” Carlson said. “One is when a resident assistant in the residence halls writes an incident report, and the second is a police report from the University Police Department.

“In some instances the length of the two strike probation, depending on when the incident happened, we can look at maybe shortening that,” she said. “We typically, if it happens very early in the semester, will give the student the benefit of the doubt and put them on probation for only those two semesters or that academic year to try and work

with them a little bit.”

The Dean of Students Office frequently works and interacts with the police in receiving information about students’ arrests.

“Every morning I get an email from Mike Martin, Oxford chief of police,” Carlson said. “He shares with me the students that were arrested and what the offense was. So we also look at those in terms of sending a letter home, if they’re under 21, that they were arrested in the city. If it’s a DUI or a drug arrest then we wait for the conviction; if they’re convicted or rather found anything other than not guilty then they could also be heard through our office and receive a strike as a result of that.”

Students above the drinking age may face less severe consequences for alcohol violations, Carlson said.

“It depends on all the factors involved, like if the police were involved and if they were respectful or belligerent,” Carlson said. “We really look at everything, and age certainly would be a factor. If it is something they’re allowed to have, just not on campus, we might be giving them significantly less community service than someone that wasn’t allowed to have it anywhere any time.”

Jacqueline Levet, sophomore speech pathology major, believes in the system.

“The policy is built with potentially strong consequences for violators, but the administrators in charge seem to be using them at reasonable discretion,” Levet said.

“That’s one of our goals,” Carlson said. “Even though a student may not like what the outcome was, they at least believe that they were treated fairly and listened to and had an opportunity to tell their side.”

For more information on the two-strike policy, contact the Dean of Students Office at 662-915-7248.

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be healthy before becoming pregnant. Once pregnant, women should be involved in prenatal care as soon as possible. After delivery, Graham suggests breastfeeding for at least the first six months of the baby's life. Also, mothers should be very cautious at every point in the process to stay away from any smoke.

Lindsey Farmer, a pregnant Mississippian and mother of a 5 year old, said her doctor advised her about several precautions, including not taking medicine like Aleve and not eating things that are not good for the baby.

"I can't just go and get Robitussin or NyQuil or stuff like that," she said. "You have to be real careful about those

kinds of things. You have to be careful to eat a balanced diet because you can get gestational diabetes from too much sugar or too much mercury from too much fish."

These things may seem small and be overlooked by expecting mothers, but they can all affect the baby just as much as the obvious hazards like alcohol and smoking.

"I think our overall health is the problem," Farmer said. "Most mothers that I know personally who have had a baby die, or be severely sick, are unhealthy before the pregnancy."

Farmer remembered a friend who became pregnant after a long period of trying to conceive. The woman had high cholesterol and high blood pressure and was overweight.

Her child came close to death and stayed in the hospi-

tal for months.

"I think we are one of the most unhealthy states, and that is why we have the one of the highest infant mortality rates," Farmer said.

Liz Sharlot, Mississippi State Health Department's communications director, said that while everyone is grateful the rate has remained steady, the health department is looking for the rate to go down, but that is easier said than done.

"Infant mortality, from what I have observed in the years I have been here, (MSHD) is not an easily solved problem," she said. "This is a problem that plagues our country. Mississippi is a very poor, rural state. There is not great access to medical care. I think that combined with being a poor and being a rural state, (it is) very difficult to treat many of those folks that we need to be

treating."

Sharlot said she has hope the rate will decrease after more is learned about the women who are having unhealthy babies. She said she is finding that women have transportation issues when they don't live in or near a city where hospitals are located.

Also, women cannot afford to take time off from their job, so that creates a problem with appointments. Lack of

money also makes it hard to get proper vitamins and nutrition.

"We have to help these people up and make it possible for them to get the services that they need," Sharlot said.

"It's a lot more than just shoving information out there. This is really an issue of, yes, letting people know that help is available, but then connecting them to that continuous help."



REGULATIONS,
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they will also help the Department of Education to enforce FERPA more strictly.

The second function of the regulations is more controversial.

Timothy Letzring, chair and associate professor of leadership and counselor education, believes the availability of student information to researchers is essential.

"What the changes did is allow schools to contract with third parties to do research on student achievement," he said.

Though schools are required to carry out such research, they were very limited before these regulations were passed, Letzring said.

"The research that it's allowing is very important," Letzring said.

"Accountability for schools is at a all time high, and it needs to be high because we need to make sure that we're teaching our students, and that our students are learning."

Letzring said he thinks this is one of the better Department of Education accomplishments.

The controversy comes into play when one considers the extra tension this could place on schools to produce top-of-the-line test scores.

"We always have a risk of relying too much on test scores," Letzring said.

Letzring said this is something they have to accept, as it is the only method currently available to evaluate student performance.

"Test scores are better than

nothing, and at least it could provide a starting point for some of these private organizations that are donating their money to see if what they are supporting is actually working," he said.

Sophomore classics and English major Rachel Banka said she hopes her records can help to advance education.

"If a third party that I'm not associated with couldn't tie me to the information then I'd be fine with them receiving it in order to better education," she said.

Freshman mechanical engineering major Allie Winters agreed.

"I think as long as we keep our names confidential that the agencies should be able to use our information, so that they can come up with resources and ways to improve education as a whole," she said.

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Former UMMC vice chancellor passes away



PHOTO COURTESY UM BRAND SERVICES
Wallace Conerly
BY JACOB BATTE
thedmnews@gmail.com

The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) lost former Vice Chancellor A. Wallace Conerly earlier this month.

Conerly, who also served as the dean of the School of Medicine, died Jan. 10 at age 76 due to complications with Parkinson's Disease.

The Tylertown native served as vice chancellor from 1994 to 2003, spent his last few days in

the hospital that bears his name, the Wallace Conerly Critical Care Hospital.

Under his guidance, the medical center saw an expansion to the physical plant, research departments, enrollment and national presence.

A Millsaps alumni, Conerly received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Andrew Jackson Council of Boy Scouts of America. Former governors Ronnie Musgrove and Haley Barbour also recognized Conerly's efforts. Musgrove declared March 19, 2003, to be "Wally Conerly Day in Mississippi." Barbour honored Conerly with the Medal of Service for lifetime contributions to the state.

Conerly, who lived in Terry is survived by his wife, the former Frances Bryan of West Point and two sons, Al and his wife Rhonda, and Charlie and his wife Lynn and their two children, Chase and Anne Marie.

OUT services expand accommodations



Students wait for the Oxford-University Transit bus. The service is expanding routes and extending hours.

FILE PHOTO | The Daily Mississippian

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BY WARREN BISHOP
warrenbishop50@gmail.com

The Oxford Board of Aldermen and the University of Mississippi have initiated updates to the Oxford-University Transit system in the past few weeks. Along with blue, red, yellow and green lines, a purple line will be added to the mix, creating a Saturday route.

This new purple line will accommodate a very specific, growing issue that has been voiced and observed within Oxford: some transit-dependent people have trouble traveling around Oxford on the weekend when the green and yellow lines do not run.

The line will travel primarily to larger locations, including Campus Creek, University Trails, down West Jackson Avenue and Walmart.

"The purple line was created in response to people

on the green and yellow lines who were having trouble with transportation," Oxford city planner Tim Akers said.

Sophomore Tyler Ferrell is somewhat skeptical of the update, but all in all, he said he feels confident in the new purple line.

"It's definitely going to help me out a lot with living in University Trails," Ferrell said. "So I feel like it's a smart idea and that it will definitely serve its purpose."

Not only will the purple line be a new service, but beginning in the fall, there will also be a lunch shuttle that will run every 10 minutes between the campus and the Square.

The shuttle is intended to further increase availability to Oxford, and it also gives transit-dependent students another outlet for lunch. The new shuttle services may benefit the city of Oxford as well by enabling the university popu-

lation to stimulate business outside campus borders.

Another addition to OUT services will be the new bus depot, which is being built near the animal shelter. The bus depot will further satisfy the expansion of the transit service, and the new facility will be in full use midway through this year, Akers told the Associated Press.

Good or bad, all these changes did not come free.

The board of aldermen increased the city's contribution to the OUT system by \$40,000, and the university also raised its contribution by \$40,000. This \$80,000 budget increase puts the budget for OUT at \$1.4 million. The Mississippi Department of Transportation covers 80 percent of that budget, but the university and city are required to cover the other 20 percent, leaving each to pay about \$292,000.

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Recruiting update: new signees and new commitments

New Ole Miss head coach Hugh Freeze has been busy on the recruiting trail since being hired on Dec. 5. With one week left until National Signing Day on Feb. 1, The Daily Mississippian's Bennett Hipp, takes a look at what has gone on in Ole Miss recruiting since Freeze took over.

Junior College Signees

Freeze signed four junior college players in the early signing period.

Darone Bailey

Offensive Guard
Coahoma C.C.
Scout.com: ★★
Rivals.com: ★★★
Vitals: 6'6," 315 pounds

After being committed to the Kentucky since July, Bailey flipped his commitment to Ole Miss in December and signed with the Rebels days later on Dec. 21. The Cleveland native earned MAJCC All-State honors as a freshman, while he suffered a knee injury this past season. Bailey will provide much-needed depth on the interior of the offensive line for Ole Miss.

Dehendret Collins

Cornerback
Copiah-Lincoln C.C.
Scout.com: ★★
Rivals.com: ★★★
Vitals: 5'11," 175 pounds

Collins was committed to Louisiana Tech up until the junior college signing period on Dec. 21, when he then chose to sign with Ole Miss. This past season, the Meadville native recorded six interceptions and 11 pass breakups to earn JUCO All-American honors. Ole Miss badly needs help in the secondary, and Collins will have the chance to come in early and play immediately. He also joins former teammate and current Ole Miss cornerback Wesley Pendleton.

High school commitments

Freeze has received two high school commitments so far, but that number will increase very soon.

Channing Ward

Defensive End
Aberdeen
Scout.com: ★★★★★
Rivals.com: ★★★★★
Vitals: 6'4," 255 pounds

Considered by most to be the top player in the state of Mississippi, Channing Ward's commitment to

Ole Miss was a huge statement by Hugh Freeze and staff. He committed to Ole Miss during a timeout in the Under Armour All-America game on Jan. 5 over offers from Alabama, Auburn, LSU and Mississippi State, among others. He recorded over 100 tackles and 16 sacks as a senior at Aberdeen High School. He should be able to come in and contribute immediately.

Pierce Burton

Offensive Tackle
CC of San Francisco (Calif.)
Scout.com: ★★★
Rivals.com: ★★★
Vitals: 6'7," 290 pounds

Burton began his college career at San Jose State before transferring to the junior college level, where he helped lead the City College of San Francisco to a perfect 12-0 season and the JC Gridwire national title this past season. The Sacramento, Calif. chose Ole Miss over offers from Florida, Fresno State, Kentucky, Indiana, Texas Tech and West Virginia, among other. He looks to be a perfect fit for Freeze's style of offense. Burton appears to have the inside track to replace left tackle Bradley Sowell, who graduated.

Bo Wallace

Quarterback
East Mississippi C.C.
Scout.com: ★★★★★
Rivals.com: ★★★★★
Vitals: 6'5," 210 pounds

Wallace originally signed with Arkansas State and then-offensive coordinator Hugh Freeze in 2010 before redshirting and then transferring to the junior college level. He set NJCAA single-season records for passing yards (4,604), total yards (4,810) and touchdown passes (53), leading his team a perfect 12-0 record and the NJCAA National Championship. He also earned first team All-American and National Offensive Player of the Year honors. Wallace chose Ole Miss over Mississippi State.

Robert Conyers

Offensive Tackle
Braddock (Fla.)
Scout.com: ★★★★★
Rivals.com: ★★★★★
Vitals: 6'5," 280 pounds

With the graduation of Bradley Sowell and early departure of Bobby Massie for the NFL Draft, finding a high school offensive tackle was a must for Ole Miss. New offensive line coach Matt Luke and the Rebels found one in Miami (Fla.) native Robert Conyers, who committed to Ole Miss over offers from Duke, Kentucky, Michigan State and Wake Forest, among others. At 6-foot-5, 280-pounds, Conyers is agile enough to play tackle in Freeze's spread, up-tempo offense.

Crown Jewel: Ward talks about his recruitment and Ole Miss commitment

BY AUSTIN MILLER
thedmsports@gmail.com

Surrounded by his family and coaches, Aberdeen defensive end Channing Ward was set to make his college choice during a timeout in the Under Armour All-America Game on Jan. 5. Hats representing Alabama, Ole Miss and Mississippi State sat on a table on the sidelines of Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Fla. When he picked up the Ole Miss hat to indicate his verbal commitment to join the Rebels next season, it was a huge win for new head coach Hugh Freeze and his staff.

"I feel like I'll be home, and I get to play with my brother," Ward said in an interview with ESPN's Dari Nowkhah shortly after his announcement.

He joins his older brother Taurus Ward, who will be a red-shirt junior defensive tackle next season for the Rebels. Channing said it's going to be a good feeling to play with his brother for two seasons in college because they only played with each other for one year in high school.

Brandon Speck from the Monroe Journal, who covered Ward's recruitment extensively throughout his senior season through the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic and Under Armour All-America Game, thinks his brother was definitely a factor in his decision, but not necessarily the determining factor. He also said Ole Miss had been looking at Taurus the previous season before Channing became the 4-star, 5-star player he was this past season.

"I think the opportunity to be with his brother was definitely right up there," Speck said, "but I also think the ability to get playing time right away (factored in). Ole Miss was up front about it the whole time, even under



Surrounded by his family and coaches, Aberdeen defensive end Channing Ward makes his commitment to Ole Miss during a timeout of the Under Armour All-America Game on Jan. 5.

coach Nutt, that he would be a guy that could come in and contribute right away. I think playing time was a really big factor."

When interviewed before his official visit to Ole Miss this past Friday, Ward said he was committed to Ole Miss and "really strong about his commitment." He also elaborated on his decision earlier this month, including the current players on the team and the coaching staff.

"I just felt better, and I know a lot of players on the team," Ward said. "I played with some of the players on the team. I just got a good vibe with the campus and everything. Got a good vibe around (the coaches). They want to win. They're going to coach you, up and get you ready to win."

Ward recorded 117 tackles with 16 sacks during his senior season at Aberdeen, which finished 7-6 and reached the second round of the MHSAA Class 3A State playoffs. After back-to-back state championship appearances his sophomore and junior season, he was focused and really wanted to win a state championship. Speck said when he talked to Ward about it, he had to "pull teeth," but once he got him to talk about it, he was very open

about it. After official recruiting visits to Alabama, Auburn, LSU, Ole Miss and Mississippi State, Channing narrowed his list to Alabama, Ole Miss and Mississippi State.

"My recruitment was crazy," Ward said. "People are always calling you, wanting to talk to you; people asking you where you think about going and then you got to talk to the coaches."

Ward is the No. 1 player in Mississippi and the No. 4 defensive end in the nation, according to Rivals.com. He is the No. 2 player in the state and the No. 8 player at his position, according to Scout.com. He was a member of The Clarion-Ledger's Dandy Dozen and listed No. 2 on the publication's Top 10 Most Wanted list. At the Under Armour All-America Game, Ward recorded seven tackles, tied a single-record with two sacks and set another record with 3.5 tackles for loss to help lead Team Blur to a 49-16 win over Team Highlight.

Ward is the crown jewel of this year's Ole Miss recruiting class and is Freeze's biggest recruit to date. Speck believes he can step in and play, maybe start as a freshman because he has a "size and speed combination that you just can't coach."

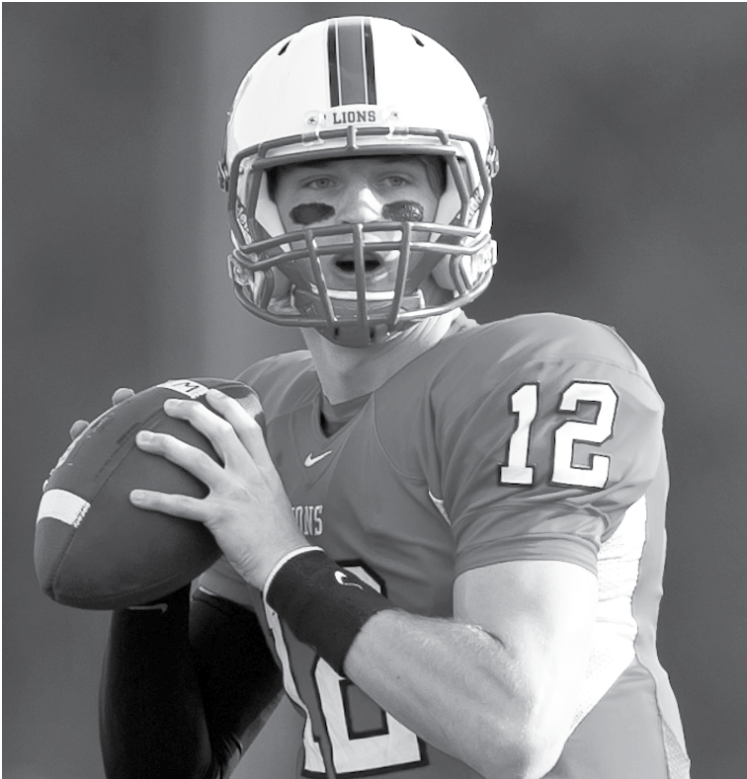


PHOTO COURTESY EAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE SID

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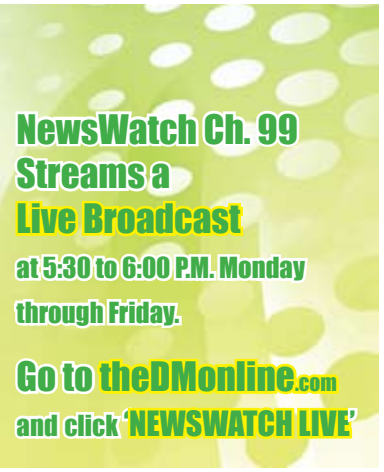
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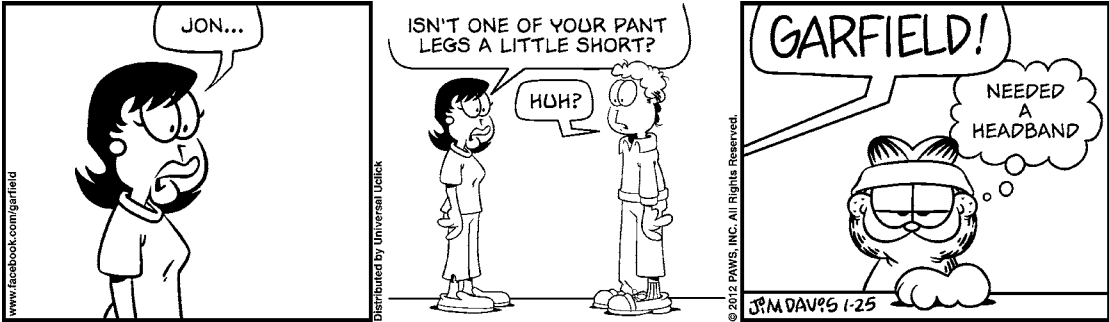
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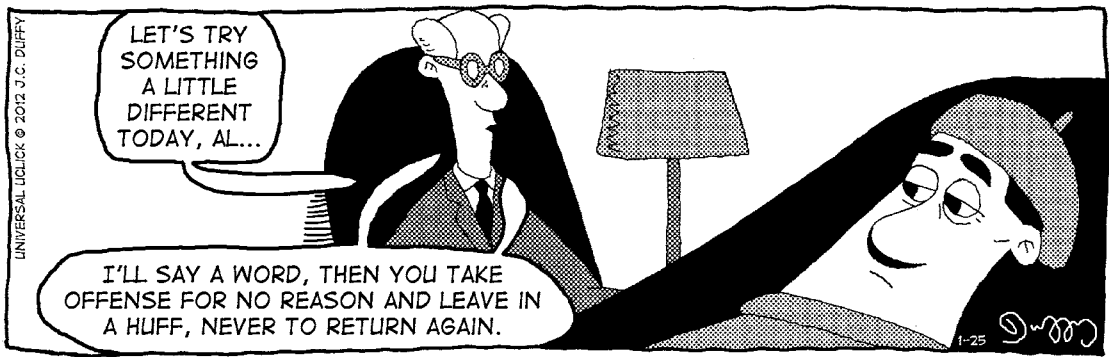
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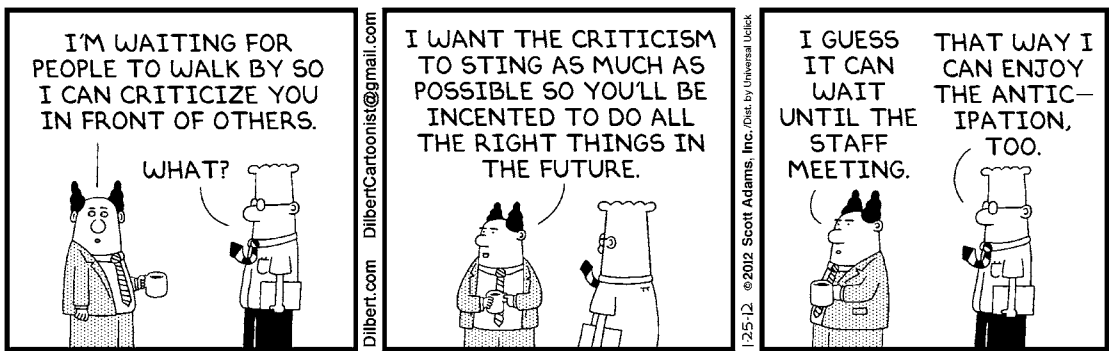
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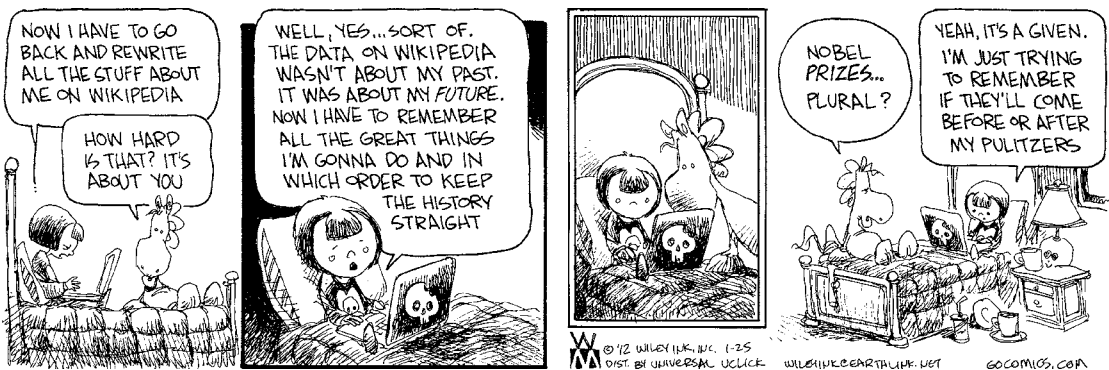
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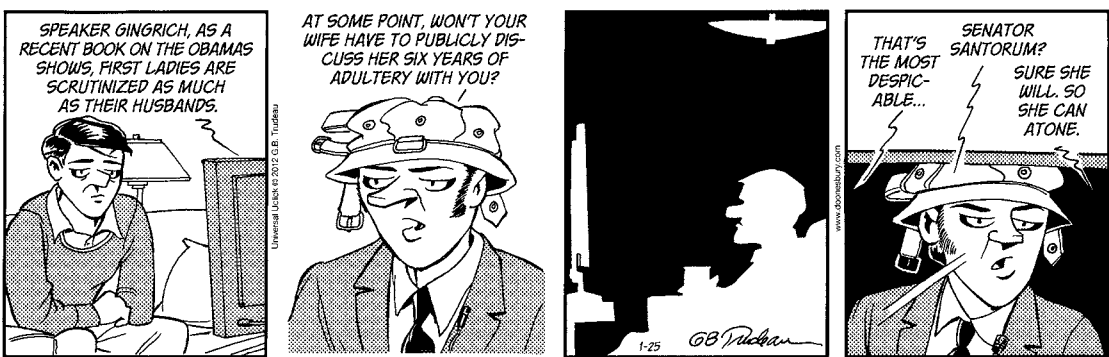
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HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

|||||

6	9	5	1	2	3	4	8	7
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5	8	4	3	6	9	2	7	1
7	6	9	2	4	1	8	5	3
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ACROSS

1 Razor feature
5 Hindu royalty
9 Kitchen gadget
14 Limited time
15 Neferitti's god
16 Chew the scenery
17 Double-decker sandwich
18 PC screens
19 Fine violin
20 Charcoal grill
22 Like a hawk
24 Gather wool
26 Fox's abode
27 Sculptor's need
30 Acquired a patina
35 Tint twice
36 Palm reader's opener (2 wds.)
37 Verdi's princess
38 Tavern order
39 Income
42 IV x XIII
43 Edict
45 First name in spying
46 Sings gaily
48 Open-minded
50 Like patent leather
51 On the — vive
52 Like a teacup
54 Start over

DOWN

1 Draw on glass
2 Salami vendor
3 Root around
4 Diplomat's post
5 Biologist — Carson
6 Skylit courts
7 Mesh
8 Scholarly org.
9 Chimed
10 Pungent cleaner
11 Reddish-brown horse
12 Diminutive suffix
13 John — (the Lone Ranger)
21 Gladden
23 Word of parting
25 Leopard spot
27 Make by hand
28 Sun, in combo
29 Best possible
31 Lucy Lawless role

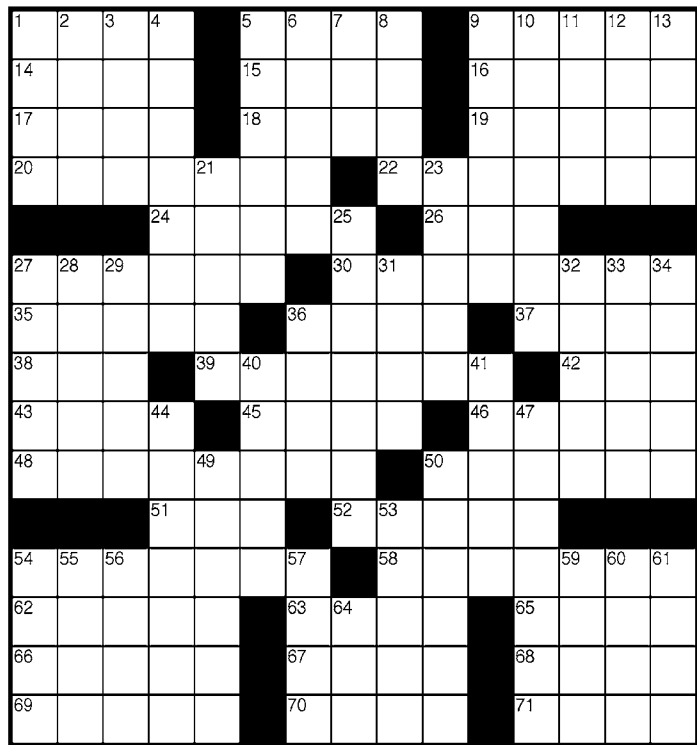
PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

GAPE	POLAR	ROBE
ALUM	SWALE	IMAN
MIDI	AESOP	VEND
MAGNET	SHOWINGS	
ASYET	LOATHE	
NEAP	IRENE	
REST	GNU	AZALEA
HIP	USHER	BBS
UNABLE	FYI	VARY
MERLE	EZRA	
	OFFEND	DUCTS
PUNCTURE	ASLEEP	
ERIK	GAITS	TAME
WAKE	ISLET	ESPN
SLED	TESLA	REED

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32 Belly dance clackers
33 Fixes typos
34 Common wildflower
36 A Karamazov
40 Click "send"
41 Barkin or DeGeneres
44 Cactus drink
47 Treated salt
49 Bankrupted
50 Furrow
53 Dislike intensely
54 Wharf denizens

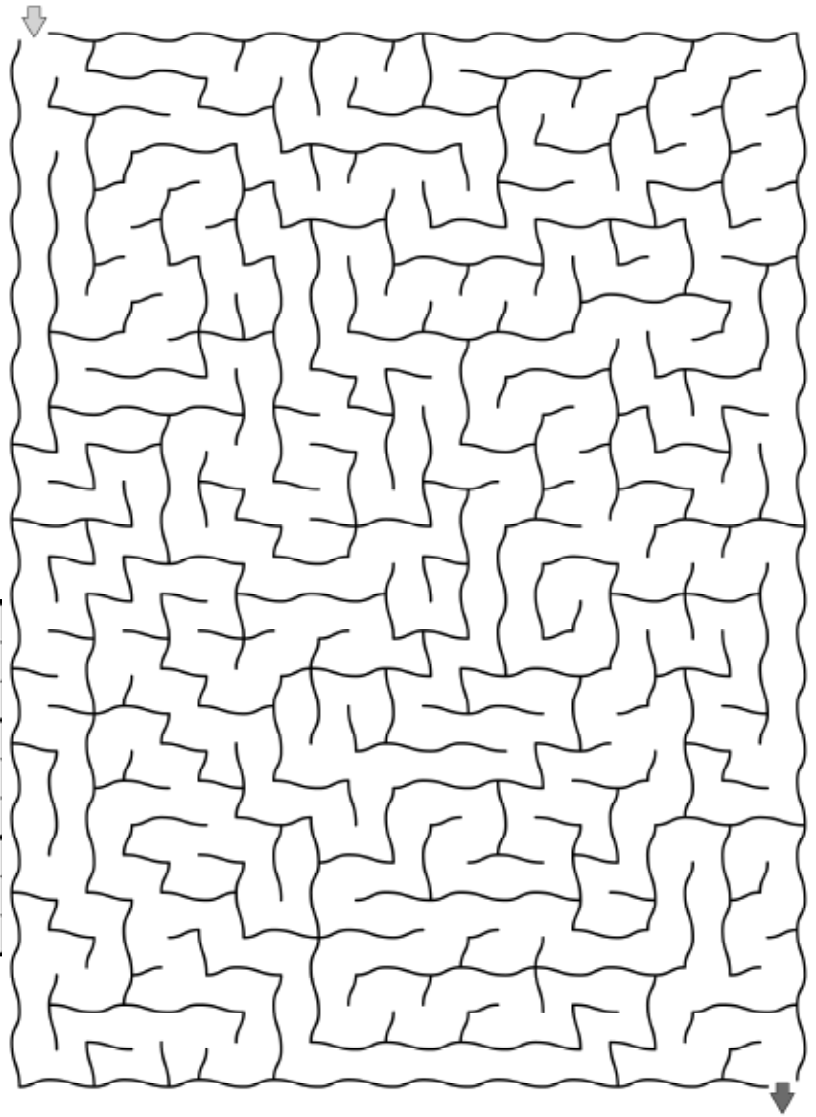
55 "A Summer Place" star
56 Golf's — Zaharias
57 Part of LAPD
59 Dud, to NASA (hyph.)
60 Kind of lens
61 What is more
64 — -Magnon



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sports briefs

**BASEBALL AMERICA
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RANKINGS**

On the heels of a top five ranking for the Rebels recruiting class, the Ole Miss baseball team finds itself in the top 25 heading into the 2012 season as Baseball America tabbed the Rebels the No. 22 team in the nation Tuesday.

It marks the ninth time the Rebels have been ranked in the top 25 in the preseason under head coach Mike Bianco, and the eighth time in the last nine seasons.

Ole Miss is one of seven SEC teams in the top 25. The rest are, as follows: No. 1 Florida, No. 3 South Carolina, No. 4 Arkansas, No. 8 LSU, No. 10 Vanderbilt and No. 11 Georgia.

After the end of fall ball this past October, players and coaches began doing skill work in small groups this last week before the first official day of practice on Friday.

In addition to work on the diamond, the Rebels have also hit the weights in the Starnes Athletic Training. Ole Miss will open the 2012 season on the road, kicking off a three-game series at No. 9 TCU on Feb. 17.

**MEN'S TRACK & FIELD
RANKED NO. 21 IN
USTFCCA POLL**

Ole Miss track and field junior Ricky Robertson has been awarded Southeastern Conference Men's Field Athlete of the Week, the league office announced on Tuesday.

Robertson, a four-time All-American and four-time SEC champion in the high jump, cleared 7-04.25 to win the high jump at the Auburn Invitational on Saturday.

That jump ranks him second in the nation this season and automatically qualified him for the NCAA Indoor Championships.

The Hernando native also placed second in the long jump with a personal-best mark of 24-05.50, which ranks him 16th in the NCAA in that event.

Robertson now ranks among the nation's top 40 competitors in three different jump events (37th in the triple jump).

The men's track and field team is also ranked No. 21 in this week's USTFCCA national poll.

Both the men and women's teams travel to Lexington on Friday to compete in the Kentucky Invitational.



Holloway reflects, looks ahead to South Carolina



PHILLIP WALLER | The Daily Mississippian
Junior forward Murphy Holloway takes a jump shot in this past week's 75-68 win over Mississippi State.

BY DAVID HENSON
dahenson@olemiss.edu

When the Ole Miss basketball team takes the floor Saturday afternoon to face South Carolina, one Rebel will be fac-

ing former teammates.

Murphy Holloway transferred from Ole Miss after his sophomore season and returned home to South Carolina, where he walked on and redshirted before returning to Ole Miss this past fall for his junior season.

While NCAA transfer rules prohibited Holloway from playing in any games for the Gamecocks, Holloway went through practice with the team.

"I look forward to all of the games," Holloway said Tuesday. "I played with those guys last year. I practiced with them, and I know most of them, but I guess just because it's the state of South Carolina, I might have a little bit more fire."

Holloway said that while it was hard to tell Ole Miss head coach Andy Kennedy and South Carolina head coach Darrin Horn about his decision, he went on to say that

telling coach Kennedy he was leaving was harder.

Despite being at South Carolina for just a year, Holloway said he had a good relationship with coach Horn.

"He supported me, showed me my options and understood the situation that I was in," Holloway said.

Holloway said the events over the past few years are something he can look back and reflect on.

"These past few years have been very eye opening with having a child and all that goes with that, but I think it has helped me a lot," he said.

"It is something to reflect on and look back and see something that I made it through."

The Irmo, S.C., native said going back home was both good and tough at the same time.

"I was happy to be back with my family," he said. "I wasn't happy I couldn't play in games

so, in that sense, I wasn't happy with that."

Holloway said that while he was at South Carolina, he was not looking forward to facing his former teammates at Ole Miss.

"It would have been really strange," he said. "I am glad to be back here and to be a Rebel."

Holloway sprained his ankle in the second half of the Middle Tennessee State game on Dec. 21, and, as a result, he missed the following three games.

In those games, Ole Miss went 1-2 with losses to Dayton and LSU. Since his return, Ole Miss has gone 3-1, including wins over then-No. 15 Mississippi State and a road win at Georgia this past week.

Holloway said his ankle is still not 100 percent and that it affects his explosiveness.

"I just have to step up and play through it," he said.

KENDRICK,

continued from page 1

the McDonald's All-American Game and the Jordan Brand Classic. Kendrick said he is honored for all the recognition, but they don't give them any more wins or help the team reach its goals.

"I don't personally look at it as any added pressure, but humans put pressure on you to and hold you to a certain standard," Kendrick said. "I think my job here is to help the team win in any way possible. That is what I came here to achieve."

"I feel honored to be the first McDonald's All-American to be here, but I want to be a part of the team that wins a SEC Championship. And I want to be a part of the first team that coach Kennedy has that goes to NCAA Tournament. Those are the goals that I want to achieve in the

near future. I have achieved some great goals in the past, and I am very proud of them because those will be things that I can tell my children, but it is onto the next one and right now that is win an SEC Championship and go forward from there."

While NCAA transfer rules denied Kendrick from playing in any games until December, nothing could keep Kendrick from being one of Ole Miss athletics' most followed athletes on Twitter. Kendrick said he loves the ability to talk to fans and get to know people that watch him play better and maybe get a look into each other's lives.

"It is a great experience, especially for me," Kendrick said. "I am from the Southside of Atlanta, so a lot of people don't get the notoriety that I get and a lot of people don't embrace it. But I definitely embrace it because I could be in a position where nobody knows me in the world. I love

getting a response for almost everything I have to say and being able to keep in contact with the fans in seeing what they have to say rather it be about games, personal life or

even what pair of shoes you are going to wear tomorrow. To be able to reach out to the fans that way, it is just great to be able to interact with them."

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Kendrick continues transition at Ole Miss

BY DAVID HENSON
dahenson@olemiss.edu

ing up and students began going home for winter break, the Ole Miss men's basketball team was preparing for

While exams were finish-

the long-awaited debut from freshman transfer guard Jelani Kendrick.

After enrolling at the University of Memphis out of Wheeler High School in Atlanta, Kendrick decided to transfer after his first semester and ultimately decided to attend Ole Miss. In doing so, Kendrick became the first McDonald's All-American in Ole Miss basketball history.

Kendrick enrolled last January and began taking classes and practicing with the team. Due to NCAA transfer rules, however, Kendrick was not allowed to play in a game until the end of the 2011 fall semester.

"It was a difficult experience just to see your teammates, who are also your family, to come out and play hard and sometimes come up a little short," Kendrick said. "It's hard to know you could of possibly made a difference, but I got through it."

While Kendrick was excited to be able to play again, he said the experience was a great learning tool. He finally made his debut Dec. 17 against Southern Miss and scored his points in a Rebel uniform on Dec. 21 against Middle Tennessee State.

"I was very relieved to be able to suit up and be out there, but it was a great experience being on the sideline and being able to see what coaches see and just the first-hand experience from a visual standpoint," Kendrick said. "I



PHILLIP WALLER | The Daily Mississippian

Freshman guard Jelani Kendrick drives to the basket in this past week's 75-68 win over Mississippi State. Kendrick sat out the first part of the season after transferring from Memphis and made his debut on Dec. 17 against Southern Miss.

was seeing some things that the coaches see during a game that you may not see when you are on the floor. To see that on the sideline is amazing. To be on the floor and helping the team to a victory or to just know that you were out there giving it your all win or lose is a great thing that I am excited about doing again."

Kendrick said he feels like he is still getting back into the swing of things after not playing in any meaningful games in almost two years.

"There is defiantly a learning curve," he said. "I think I am still kind of getting back into the swing of things after

almost two years of not playing organized basketball and coming straight into the fire of Southeastern Conference play. I didn't get any warm-up games or anything like that, so I think I am on a constant learning curve and continue to learn new things to help make me a better player and help the team out."

Kendrick was a highly decorated player coming out of high school, being ranked the No. 8 player in the nation on Rivals.com and the No. 15 player in the nation on Scout.com. He also played in both

See KENDRICK, PAGE 11

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